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CONFIDENTIAL GDS

September 20, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR

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J. C.

The Vice President  
The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of the Treasury  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Secretary of the Interior  
The Secretary of Commerce  
The Secretary of Transportation  
The Secretary of Energy  
The Director, Office of Management and Budget  
The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament  
Agency  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
The Director, National Science Foundation  
The Director, Office of Science and Technology  
Policy  
The Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality  
The Administrator, Environmental Protection  
Agency

SUBJECT: U.S. Policy on Antarctic Resources

The President has reviewed the Antarctic Policy Group's memorandum of August 25, 1977 and the results of the Policy Review Committee meeting of September 16, 1977. He has decided that the U.S. Delegation to the Ninth Consultative Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty parties should take the following position:

1. The Delegation should propose early convening of negotiations on a conservation regime for Antarctic marine living resources. These negotiations should be within the Antarctic Treaty context but should provide for participation by other interested states.

NSC review(s) completed.

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2. The Delegation should reiterate the current U.S. policy of urging states to refrain from commercial exploration and exploitation of Antarctic mineral resources, pending an internationally agreed approach. The Delegation should work toward accelerated progress on development of such an international regime.

3. The Delegation should indicate that, if a consensus develops in favor of a binding moratorium on exploration and exploitation of Antarctic mineral resources, the U.S. would not stand in the way and would work to achieve an acceptable moratorium. However, the U.S. considers as satisfactory the current situation whereby the Antarctic Treaty parties have adopted policies of voluntary restraint on exploration and exploitation of Antarctic mineral resources.

4. If the Delegation considers that developments at the Consultative Meeting warrant further elaboration -- during the Meeting -- of the U.S. position on a moratorium regime, it should seek further guidance from Washington.

Following the Ninth Consultative Meeting, the Policy Review Committee should submit a memorandum for the President summarizing the results of the meeting and providing recommendations for next steps.



Zbigniew Brzezinski

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# EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary